## Stronger Communities for a Stronger Indiana

The State of Indiana Office of Community of Rural Affairs (OCRA) invites your community to participate in the Community Readiness Index. Through the CRI program, you will gain insight into the strengths and weaknesses of your community so you can determine a course of action that will foster better community planning and growth for new generations of citizens.

The Community Readiness Index is the vision of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Indiana and the Office of Community and Rural Affairs with support from Ball State University.

## What Is the Community Readiness Index?

The Community Readiness Index is a low-cost, high-impact evaluation process to assist your town in planning for positive, productive growth.

The CRI program focuses on providing a straightforward method of objective, data-driven analysis to communities that are dissatisfied with the current state of their community and economic development performance.

## Steps Toward Community Readiness

1. Sign up with OCRA to participate in the Community Readiness Index *(See back for details on how to sign up your community)*
2. Complete the community assessment for public officials
3. Complete the community assessment for community organizations
4. Hold community awareness conversations
5. Identify community strengths using the PWR$^3$ ™ community performance report and establish direction for future projects

## How Long Does the CRI Take to Complete?

Because most of the steps require feedback from many individuals and groups, completion of each step will vary widely, with some taking a few weeks and others taking a few months.  For more details on the steps in the CRI process, visit **http://cri.cberdata.org**.

Some communities with a recent in-depth strategic plan may be eligible for the CRI Fast Track.  *See back for details.*

## What Is My Community Getting Ready For?

Effective planning comes from effective understanding.  The Community Readiness Index is designed to allow Indiana cities and towns to fully understand their community strengths and economic situation so they can effectively plan for a more productive future.

Benefits of better community planning include:

• increased attraction of business that are a better fit for your community

• reduced "brain drain" of talented workforce (increased retention and attraction of recent graduates and local talent)

• improved competitiveness for grants for economic development and community projects

• increased quality of place/community pride

## Additional Information

Additional information about the Community Readiness Index is publicly available online at **http://cri.cberdata.org**.  The website includes sign-up information, frequently asked questions, and contact information for the organizers and consultants involved with this project.

The website also offers examples of the final community performance report using PWR$^3$ ™, a customized analysis tool developed by Ball State University.
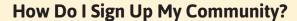
Visit the Community Readiness Index online at **http://cri.cberdata.org**.

## What Is the CRI Fast Track?

Communities that have recently completed a strategic economic or community development planning process may apply for the CRI Fast Track, which is a streamlined version of the CRI program.

The community must submit a detailed strategic plan that demonstrates an understanding of the community's current economic situation and physical infrastructure and outlines the implementation of effective strategic goals for positive growth.

To apply for the CRI Fast Track, visit **http://cri.cberdata.org** and select "Fast Track" from the left hand menu.

## How Do I Sign Up My Community?

Each community should select a representative group (such as a town council, economic development team, or development committee) that can act as the primary contact throughout the CRI program.

After enrolling online at **http://cri.cberdata.org**, OCRA will contact the representative group to continue the step-by-step process. For questions in the interim, you may contact OCRA directly using the information below.

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# COMMUNITY READINESS INDEX

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